

(2) Funds appropriated pursuant to this title may not be used for an item for which Congress has specifically denied funds.

SEC. 3122. "LIMITS ON GENERAL PLANT PROJECTS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy may carry out any construction project under the general plant projects authorized by this title if the total estimated cost of the construction project does not exceed \$2,000,000.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If, at any time during the construction of any general plant project authorized by this title, the estimated cost of the project is revised because of unforeseen cost variations and the revised cost of the project exceeds \$2,000,000, the Secretary shall immediately furnish a complete report to the congressional defense committees explaining the reasons for the cost variation.

(3) REPORT ON PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

FOR GENERAL PLANT PROJECTS.—(1) Not later than February 1, 1997, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the desirability of a permanent authorization of appropriations for the defense general plant projects and civilian general plant projects of the Department of Energy.

(2) If the Secretary determines for purposes of the report under paragraph (1) that a permanent authorization of appropriations is desirable, the report shall include—

(4) recommendations for legislation to provide for a permanent authorization of appropriations, including a formula for adjusting for inflation the amount authorized to be appropriated for the projects to be covered by such authorization of appropriations; and

(5) a description of the actions to be undertaken by the Secretary to control costs with respect to such projects, including any actions that may depend on the size, nature, or scope of the project concerned.

SEC. 3123. LIMITS ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), construction on a construction project may not be started or additional obligations incurred in connection with the project above the total estimated cost, whenever the current estimated cost of the construction project, which is authorized by section 3101, 3102, or 3103, or which is in support of national security programs of the Department of Energy and was authorized by any previous Act, exceeds by more than 25 percent the higher of—

(6) the amount authorized for the project; or  
(7) the amount of the total estimated cost for the project as shown in the most recent budget justification data submitted to Congress.

(2) An action described in paragraph (1) may be taken if—

(8) the Secretary of Energy has submitted to the congress-

sional defense committees a report on the actions and the  
circumstances making such action necessary: and  
(9) a period of 30 days has elapsed after the  
date on  
which the report is received by the committees.

(3) In the computation of the 30-day period under  
paragraph

(2), there shall be excluded any day on which  
either House of  
Congress is not in session because of an  
adjournment of more  
than 3 days to a day certain.